As an amateur radio operator for the last 30 years (AH6EZ), I have directly witnessed the variations in HF radio propagation over several sun spot cycles, as well as the yearly seasonal and daily variations. Coordinating emergency communications with available resources is highly variable depending on the nature of the emergency and can require communications of any distance, day or night. Access to a communication band between 4.0 and 7.0 MHz would greatly enhance the reliability of HF amateur radio communications. The 40 meter amateur band is frequently useless during the evening hours because of destructive interference from shortwave broadcast stations. Adding a band at 5 MHz would provide capability for clear communications.

As a radio systems engineer for Motorola for the last 27 years, I have designed many commercial and public safety HF radio systems, both in the U.S. and for international use. It is very obvious to me that having properly spaced frequencies provides the optimum means of communicating over the variable HF media.

I strongly recommend that the FCC follow the ARRL recommendations and initiate actions to secure the 5MHz band for at least secondary amateur use.